

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in this application. Applicants have amended their claims herein to more clearly define their invention.

Claims 1, 11, and 21, are amended herein to recite assigning each of the plurality of host computers to one of the (N) host computer groups. The Specification expressly reads, in pertinent part, “[i]n step 350, Applicants’ method assigns each host computer capable of communicating with the information storage and retrieval system to one of the (N) host computer groups.” *See*, Specification on Page 16 at Lines 11-13. Support can also be found in FIG. 3 at step 350.

No new matter has been entered. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-26 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Burton et al. (US Pat. No. 6,633,962).

Burton et al. teach a system wherein a plurality of host computers are interconnected with a plurality of storage controllers. Col. 1 at Lines 1 through 13, and FIG. 1. The storage controllers control access to a storage device. Col. 1 at Lines 15-16. Burton et al. further teach configuring zero or more hosts in a cluster group, such that “[i]f a logical disk is assigned to a cluster group, then only those hosts also assigned to the cluster group can access such logical disk.” Col. 1 at Lines 60-62. Burton et al. further teach that “[a]ny logical disk can be in zero or one cluster group and a host can be in zero or more cluster groups.” Col. 1 at Lines 64-66.

Burton et al. teach a storage system wherein a host computer can be configured in no cluster groups, or in one cluster group, or in more than one cluster group. Burton et al.

nowhere teach or suggest a storage system wherein each host computer is assigned to one of (N) host computer groups, as recited by Applicants' claims 1, 11, and 21, as amended herein. Furthermore, Burton et al. nowhere teach or suggest a storage system wherein each of the host computers assigned to (i)th host computer group is not assigned to any other of the (N) host computer groups, wherein (i) is greater than or equal to 1 and less than or equal to (N), as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 11, and 21, as amended herein.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of Cal.*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed.Cir. 1987); MPEP 2131. Moreover, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the . . . claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed.Cir. 1989).

Applicants respectfully submit that Burton et al. does not anticipate claims 1, 11, or 21, because Burton et al. fail to teach a method to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system, wherein that method forms (N) host computer groups and (N) logical volume groups, wherein (N) is greater than or equal to 1, and wherein each host computer is assigned to one of (N) host computer groups as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 11, and 21, as amended herein.. Applicants respectfully further submit that Burton et al. does not anticipate claims 1, 11, or 21, because Burton et al. fail to teach a method to control access to logical volumes disposed in an information storage and retrieval system, wherein that method forms (N) host computer groups and (N) logical volume groups, wherein (N) is greater than or equal to 1, and wherein each of the host computers assigned to (i)th host computer group is not

assigned to any other of the (N) host computer groups, as recited in Applicants' claims 1, 11, and 21, as amended herein.

Claims 2 through 10, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 1. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Burton et al. fail to teach all the elements of Applicants' claim 1, as amended herein. This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2 through 10, as amended herein, are not anticipated by Burton et al..

Claims 12 through 20, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 11. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Burton et al. fail to teach all the elements of Applicants' claim 11. This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 12 through 20 are not anticipated by Burton et al..

Claims 22 through 26, depend, directly or indirectly, from claim 21. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that Burton et al. fail to teach all the elements of Applicants' claim 21. This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 22 through 26 are not anticipated by Burton et al..

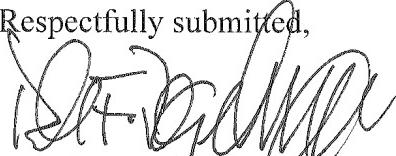
Having dealt with all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections of the claims, Applicants submit that the application as amended is in condition for allowance, and an

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allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them, or credit an overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 502262.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that on this 5th day of September, 2006, that Amendment B is being filed via the Web Enabled Patent Filing System (EFT-WEB).

By: 

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